

**Teton County FSA Office**  
1102 North Main Ave  
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Choteau, MT 59422-0836

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Dale Hanson, Vice Chairperson  
Mitch Konen, Regular Member

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Julie Ameline, PT  
Gail Durocher, PT  
Pam Kramer, PT  
Ann Hall, PT  
Dana Sullivan, TO & TF  
Dick Dauwalder, TF & TO

**Dates to Remember:**

**August 4 - September 28** – DCP late filed fee of \$100 will be assessed  
**September 10** – Signup begins for LCP and LIP  
**September 24-27** – Tribal Outreach Forum, Gran Tree, Bozeman  
**September 28** – Final date for late filed 2007 DCP contracts  
**October 1** – CRP payments begin being issued  
**October 2 & 3** – Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium, Dillon  
**October 13** – Deadline for removal of hay from CRP emergency haying and managed haying  
**October 13** – Removal of livestock for CRP emergency grazing  
**October 15** – CDP Signup Begins  
**November 2** – COC ballots will be mailed to eligible voters  
**December 1** – NAP application closing date for Honey  
**December 3** – Final date to return voted COC ballots to FSA office



# Teton County FSA

## September 2007

### Disaster Program Signup Begins

Signup for the *Livestock Compensation Program (LCP)* and the *Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)* will begin **September 10, 2007**.

Producers in primary counties declared secretarial disaster areas or certain counties declared presidential disaster areas between January 1, 2005 and February 28, 2007 or producers located in counties contiguous to those counties are eligible. Also producers in a primary (or contiguous) county that received an Administrator's Physical Loss Notice directly associated with a disaster declaration made by President Bush may also be eligible for LCP, LIP and DDAP.

*LCP* compensates livestock producers for feed losses occurring between January 1, 2005, and February 28, 2007 due to natural disaster. This can include producers who suffered losses resulting from blizzards that started in 2006 and continued into January 2007. Livestock producers may elect to receive compensation for calendar year 2007 grazing season losses that are attributable to wildfire natural disaster occurring during the applicable period as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, poultry, elk, reindeer, sheep, goats, deer or swine.

Producers will not be penalized if they reduced the average number of livestock they owned for grazing during the production year for which assistance is being provided.

The payment rate for each livestock category will be 61 percent of the USDA determined national payment rate.

*LIP* compensates livestock producers for livestock losses between January 1, 2005 and February 23, 2007 that resulted from natural disasters.

Eligible livestock include: dairy cattle, beef cattle, buffalo, beefalo, equine, sheep, goats, swine, poultry, or deer.

The payment rate will be 26 percent of the market value of the livestock on the day before the date of death, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. These rates will be available at the FSA office during the sign-up period.

Producers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in LCP or LIP benefits. Eligible producers must choose only one year for which they wish to receive benefits in either of the programs.

## Crop Disaster Program Signup Begins

Signup for the Crop Disaster Program (CDP) will **begin October 15, 2007**. CDP does not require a disaster declaration.

CDP provides benefits to farmers who suffered quantity and quality losses to 2005, 2006, or 2007 crops from natural disasters if the crop was planted before February 28, 2007, or in the case of prevented plantings, for crops that would have been planted before February 28, 2007.

Producers who incurred qualifying losses in 2005, 2006, or 2007 must choose only one year to apply for benefits. Producers may apply for benefits for losses to multiple commodities as long as the losses occurred in the same crop year.

Only producers who obtained crop insurance coverage or coverage under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) for the year of loss will be eligible for CDP benefits. Producers must have suffered quantity losses in excess of 35 percent to be eligible for CDP. The payment rate is set at 42 percent of the established price.

Assistance, together with any crop insurance or NAP payment received for the same crop and including the value of the crop production not lost, must not exceed 95 percent of the total value of the crop absent the disaster.

Farmers may receive a maximum of \$80,000 in CDP benefits.

## Teton County Approved For Emergency Conservation Program

Ranchers experiencing severe drought conditions may be eligible for cost-share assistance under the ECP program.

A producer qualifying for ECP assistance may receive cost share assistance up to 75% of the cost of installing eligible temporary measures. Cost sharing for permanent measures is based on 50% of the total eligible cost. Approved practices and measures may include:

- installing pipelines or other facilities for livestock water
- constructing and deepening wells for livestock
- water
- developing springs or seeps for livestock water
- hauling water for livestock

## Emergency Conservation Program (cont.)

Producers who have experienced severe drought conditions, requiring outside assistance to provide supplemental emergency livestock water, should contact the FSA Office. In order for a producer to be eligible for the program there must be pasture available and there must be a failed water source.

Sign-up for the program **started September 6, 2007 and will end October 3, 2007**.

To be eligible for cost share, practice shall not be started until a request has first been filled at the FSA office and an onsite inspection of the problem area has been made by FSA.

## Emergency Haying and Grazing Approved For All of Teton County

Emergency haying and grazing of CRP acreage has been authorized for all of Teton County.

A CRP participant requesting emergency haying and grazing must complete the written request and be approved before the activity begins.

The CRP-authorizing legislation requires a payment reduction to be assessed. For 2007, CRP participants who either emergency or managed hay or graze their CRP will be assessed a payment reduction of 10%. Producers who managed hay or grazed their CRP will have their payment reduction reduced to 10%.

Acreage eligible for emergency haying and grazing includes any CRP acreage located within 210 miles of Teton County and is devoted to the following practices: CP1, CP2, CP4B, CP4D, CP10, CP18B, and CP18C.

Acreage ineligible for managed or emergency haying and grazing includes acreage devoted to: Useful life easements; Land within 100 feet of a stream or other permanent water body; CRP wildlife food plots and any practice not listed above.

Producers who participate in either managed or emergency haying or grazing are required to certify completion of the practice. Annual payments can not be made until this certification is filed with the county office.

## Rural Youth Loans

FSA makes loans to individual rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with their participation in 4-H clubs, Future Farmers of America, and similar organizations.

Each project must be part of an organized and supervised program of work. The project must be planned and operated with the help of the organization adviser, produce sufficient income to repay the loan, and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience.

### Who may borrow?

To qualify for a loan, an applicant must:

- Be a citizen of the United States (or a permanent resident), which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
- Be between 10 and 20 years old;
- Live in a town of less than 10,000 residents;
- Be unable to obtain a loan from other sources; and
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work, as outlined above.

The project adviser must recommend the project and the loan and agree to provide adequate supervision.

### What are some possible projects?

All projects must be an income producing project.

### What is the maximum loan amount?

The maximum amount for FSA youth loans is \$5,000

### What security is required?

Applicants must sign a promissory note and be responsible for repaying the loan. In some cases, a cosigner may be required. Loan collateral normally consists of items purchased with loan funds.

### What are the repayment terms?

The repayment schedule will be worked out with FSA. Payments will be tailored to the type of project for which the loan was made.

## Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium

The Women Stepping Forward for Agriculture Symposium will be held October 2 & 3, 2007 at the Beaverhead Golf Course, Highway 41 North in Dillon. Early registration is \$50 due by September 20. The Symposium is sponsored by the State FAC, MT Agri-Women, MT Farm Bureau Women, WIFE and the MT Cattlewomen. The symposium provides a platform for women involved in the promotion of Montana's agriculture to learn of issues affecting rural agricultural communities, promote leadership development, and further support women's leadership roles.

An agenda including the registration form is available at the FSA office or by logging into the Montana FSA homepage at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>.

## One Month Extension for MILC Payments

The Milk Income Loss Contract (MILC) program payment rate calculation at 34 percent has been extended for the month of September 2007.

The MILC program compensates dairy producers when domestic milk prices fall below a specified level.

The one month extension was provided through the Agricultural Assistance Act of 2007. Under previous law, the MILC payment period and 34 percent rate expired at the end of August 2007, and the payment rate for September 2007 was zero percent.

Dairy producers must contact the local FSA office to change their production start month to September 2007.

## COC Election

Ballots for the county committee (COC) election will be mailed to eligible voters by November 2. The final date to submit ballots to the FSA county office is December 3.

Please vote and have your voice heard for USDA programs to fit the needs of the local community.

US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
**Teton County FSA Office**  
P.O. Box 836  
1102 North Main Ave  
Choteau, MT 59422-0836

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#### ***Important Dates to Remember***

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#### **2008 NAP Important Dates**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>Application Closing Date</b>
Perennial Forage, Mint, Mixed Forage, All Types	March 15, 2008
Annual Crops – Both Fall & Spring Seeded Crops: Winter Peas & Rye; Garlic; Wheat Forage; Millet; Buckwheat; Sorghum Forages	March 15, 2008
Perennial Fruit (Apples, Cherries, etc.)	March 15, 2008
Honey	December 1, 2007

**Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to participate in FSA programs  
should contact Sherwin K. Smith, CED at 1102 North Main Ave, Choteau  
or call 406-466-5351 extension 106, or e-mail at [sherwin.smith@mt.usda.gov](mailto:sherwin.smith@mt.usda.gov).**